

Pitcairn Completes 2019 Program With “Angels Over Pitcairn”

One of the more attractive issues celebrating the 2019 Holiday season was an issue from Pitcairn with the theme, “Angels over Pitcairn”. Shown here are the strip of three stamps, the First Day Cover design and the cancellation.

The three angels in this issue play an important part in the beliefs of many of the islanders and provide a relevant link to Christmas in what is one of the remotest places to celebrate this happy time of peace and fellowship. Derived from the Latin meaning “messenger”, angels often are defined in art as having extraordinary beauty and are often identified with wings, halos and light.

The Guide to Pitcairn describes Christmas celebrations as uniting the entire community in tradition and friendship. It continues... “Christmas morning is spent searching the island for suitable Christmas trees. The trees are transported to the Square where they are stood awaiting families who arrive laden with gifts to hang on them.

Being summertime, the weather is often hot and it is late afternoon before everyone on the island congregates in the Square. A group of



people take presents off the trees and call out the names of recipients. Everyone receives something from almost everyone else.

There are gifts galore and people going in all directions often trying to collect more than one present at a time as their names are continuously being called. There are a wide variety of presents ranging from island grown food and island made carvings and baskets, to imported toys, fishing lines, sandpaper, toiletries and much more”.

The Guide description continues: “Once the presents have been taken from the trees and everyone has thanked everyone else for their presents and have tried to guess who the nameless presents came from, it is dinner time. While a few helpers remain behind to take the trees down, families collect all their gifts and return home where they may have a family dinner or go out to visit friends for a shared meal”.

To purchase the “Angels over Pitcairn” issue and for more information on previous issues, please go to the official website of the Pitcairn Islands Philatelic Bureau, <http://www.stamps.gov.pn>.